

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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LAYING THE POWDER-TRAINS.

Although the Republicans of the senate voted unanimously for the final passage of the Kitchen free-sugar repeal bill on Saturday, they have laid the foundation for a very nice little fight on the administration next fall, when the political campaign is at its stump-speechifying best.

For one thing, the Republicans have put the Democrats on record as saying that while a duty of 1.348 cents a pound on sugar is iniquitous high protection, a duty of 1.0048 is tariff for revenue only. In other words, a reduction of one-quarter has made the difference between Republican and Democratic doctrine. The figures above are, of course, those for Cuban sugars, the Cubas particularly affecting the domestic market.

It was during the senate debates that Democrats went on record as standing by the cent-a-pound rate as tariff for revenue only. The Republicans also laid powder-trains of trouble for the Democratic organizations in a number of states by making it necessary for the Bourbons to turn down proposals for protection of commodities in these states. Senator Lodge offered an amendment to the sugar bill restoring the duties on all dyestuffs. His amendment would place on foreign dyestuffs the duty rates proposed some years ago by Representative Hill of Connecticut, who was a member of the ways and means committee and drafted a complete tariff bill, based largely on the Payne-Aldrich act. It was supported by the Republicans but rejected by the Democrats.

Lodge's action was in line with that of Works, who has precipitated a merry controversy over the citrus tariff legislation of the Wilson regime. Several other Republican members have made proposals for restoration of duties, thus compelling the Democrats, who knew they had to pass the sugar bill speedily and without trimmings, again to "throw down" state industries. These powder-trains will be touched off when the campaign gets fairly under way. An effort will be made to put the national Democratic party on the defensive, and as the Republicans have thus far shown themselves masters of the Democrats at this kind of political statecraft, the effort will probably be successful.

The Wilson administration has been hampered from the start on the score that it was inimical to business, even to legitimate business. The cry will be redoubled in the campaign, and the parliamentary skirmishes which preceded last Saturday's vote on the sugar bill have furnished several hand-grenades which Republicans will hurl into the opposite trenches about next September.

GLASS HOUSES AND STONES.

If Francisco Molina, the Spanish murderer of Hawaii, has the sense of humor with which he has been credited, he must have been laughing for months at the fruitless attempts of the Big Island police to catch him. Twice since he shot and killed a Portuguese watchman at Nanalehu and made his escape has Molina been arrested for minor offenses and neither time did the police recognize in him the desperado to capture whom there had been talk of calling out the national guard.

Molina is now found in Hookena jail, where he has been for three months of a sentence for assault. Previously he was arrested at Waimanalo for carrying a concealed weapon, fined \$15 and allowed to go. At the same time, placards were up in Waimanalo describing the man and offering a reward for his arrest. Either the description was so badly off as to be worthless, or the police authorities were in a state of coma.

Honolulu should not, however, indulge in any large amount of ridicule at the shortcomings of police elsewhere. We have sufficient clumsiness of our own. The chances are all against the murderer ever being recognized had he been in a local lock-up. A sample of lack of gray matter here is the bringing of charges against four police officers before the civil service commission, as a result of apparently conflicting testimony in police court. Followed a confusion of incidents, which should have been straightened out either by the sheriff as the head of the department, or by the prosecuting attorney after the conflict of witnesses in police court became apparent. Instead, the matter went to the civil service commission and after some aimless discussion was referred back to the sheriff for investigation. The whole occurrence was needless and half an hour's plumbing of the facts by an intelligent

executive could have prevented the perjury charges being brought at all.

The Hawaii case serves again to direct attention to one growing evil in the territory—the carrying of concealed weapons. Something should be done in the way of sternly repressive measures against this practice. The Spanish murderer was fined \$15 and allowed to go. In every case where a man is caught with a deadly weapon lurking about him, the police might well make enough investigation to find out whether he is a desperado or a man of some balance.

As the Star-Bulletin has said before, sooner or later Hawaii has got to take away these weapons from irresponsible hands, and long ago ordinary intelligence in police affairs should have taught the various county governments to stop the indiscriminate sale of knives and firearms. How many murders must teach the lesson?

MAKING OFFICERS IN UNIVERSITIES.

(From the Minneapolis Journal.)

The awakening of the demand for the military training of young men is emphasized by the action of the University of Michigan, which has never before emulated the military example of her younger sisters among the state universities.

While the training undertaken at Ann Arbor is to be voluntary, instead of compulsory as here, emphasis is to be laid on the fitting of young men to become officers. As nearly as possible the course at West Point is to be duplicated. Already the curricula of the various departments offer most of the studies at the academy, and, with the establishment of a course in military science and the appointment of an army officer as professor, it is expected that a young man may train himself for a commission at Ann Arbor almost as well as at West Point.

Michigan, however, ought to put the proper foundation under the scheme by requiring service in the cadet corps from all who enter the collegiate departments. This, indeed, was the recommendation of the university senate, but it was turned down by the regents.

On the other hand, Minnesota may well consider the establishment of a complete military course for training officers on the Michigan plan by coordinating the various courses valuable for that purpose already offered in the scientific and technical colleges. Minneapolis has a large and well-organized cadet corps, which would furnish practical training in command for those taking the higher military course.

Plans like these illustrate how much may, and doubtless will, be done by our universities to supply the lack of officer material which is now a serious obstacle in the path to national preparedness.

WILL THEY SWAP?

Now that the senate has yielded—albeit with none too much grace—to the house in the matter of free sugar repeal, what will the house do in the conference over the army reorganization bill?

By all odds the Chamberlain bill—for that is virtually what the senate passed—is preferable to the Hay measure of the house. The Hay measure was largely straw and much of it was chaff. The Chamberlain bill provides for an adequate army; it has good ideas on the reserve; it deals forcefully with the militia problem. Perhaps the house will take program from the senate, especially since the international situation is darker now than it was when the Hay bill was put through.

Judging by the inquiries local newspapers receive these days, Honolulu is more interested in the sugar tariff than in a possible war with Germany. And what chiefly seems to concern those who ask about the German situation is that the transportation of Hawaiian sugar might be disorganized in case of a break in relations. Is it pocket patriotism or merely a comfortable belief that somehow Uncle Sam will get past the crisis safely?

Inventions of European scientists for extracting things out of the air should be invaluable to the official announcers.

Those who talk of China as uncivilized should watch how they're working the recall on Yuan.

Carranza seems to regard ours as only a jitney army, anyway.

HARMONY HASTENS ACTION UPON NEW RAPID TRANSIT CHARTER PLAN

(Continued from page one)

With but one or two exceptions these questions were answered in the affirmative.

It was the opinion of the committee that the Rapid Transit would have no objection to paying to the city and county 2½ per cent of its annual gross receipts should the proposed new charter be ratified by Congress. During the discussion on this question Commissioner Williams suggested that this payment to the city and county be used for road work. It was also intimated by the Rapid Transit committee that, in case the new charter is ratified this year, the Rapid Transit would pay to the city and county 2½ per cent of its gross earnings for the year 1916. In this connection Chairman Forbes stated that there is little doubt that the new charter will be passed in Congress this year.

Based on Utility Business.

This proposed payment to the city and county means a percentage of the gross receipts from the utility business of the Rapid Transit, including the carrying of passengers and freight. Incomes from the baseball park, aquarium and rents are not included.

There was considerable discussion over a question asked by Chairman Forbes whether the Rapid Transit would be willing to give an indemnity bond to the city and county for the protection of its streets. Manager Ballentyne wanted to know the purpose of giving bond. Chairman Forbes answered that its purpose would be so that the city might feel protected in case it came to the necessity of having to repair some of the company's work.

"That is all provided for in our present franchise," Attorney Withington remarked.

Details Talked Over.

Chairman Forbes asked whether the company, in the event of the passage of the franchise, would carry a depreciation fund, no part of which should be taken from other funds.

"You mean that the year's depreciation be put in a cash fund by itself, and that it apply to renewals?" Mr. Peck inquired.

"Exactly," answered Chairman Forbes. "But this fund would not cover repairs. It would be merely a replacement fund. In other words, the fund would be of a size so that the company would not be handicapped for ready money to make any replacements."

In the matter of an indeterminate clause in the proposed franchise it appeared to be the opinion of those present that such a clause would be necessary. "There was little argument on this point."

Reverting to the depreciation fund, Chairman Forbes stated that all proposed extensions by the company would be made out of its capital, and not from its earnings. He added that he was not opposed to a depreciation fund sufficient to take care of 70 per cent of the company's entire installation.

Regarding the indeterminate clause—by which the charter might be revised or entirely set aside by Congress—Chairman Forbes wanted to know if this was favored by the company. Asked for his opinions, Mayor Lane declined to make a statement, saying that he was at the meeting as a citizen, and not as a representative of the board of supervisors or city.

Favors Principle, Says Peck. "As to the principle involved, we have never voiced any disapproval," said Mr. Peck. "I am in favor of the principle of it."

Both Chairman Forbes and Mr. Peck stated that they did not believe Congress would consider a franchise not containing an indeterminate clause.

Chairman Forbes asked whether the company would immediately begin preparations for proposed extensions and improvements should the new charter be fully approved here and sent to Congress.

"Personally," said Mr. Ivers, "I believe that the company would not be warranted in spending any large sums of money until it knows how it stands."

"We had one franchise which was approved here, but which did not go through Congress," declared Attorney Withington. "It was blocked by a gentleman who went before Congress."

Chairman Forbes said that the commission feels that the proposed extensions by the company are very material, and that it believes they should begin as soon as the new charter goes up before Congress. He spoke of several extensions which have been "demanded" by the public.

"What extensions have been demanded?" inquired Manager Ballentyne. "Fort Shafter extension, Liliha extension, and Kaimuki extension," Chairman Forbes replied.

Mr. Castle stated that he felt the directors of the company would not fa-

vor any extensions until they knew of the action of Congress on the proposed charter, in view of past experiences.

Mr. Ivers was of the opinion that, if the company was to carry out all proposed extensions, it would mean an outlay of about \$300,000, adding that he did not think the company would vote to expend that amount until it had some assurance that the franchise bill would pass Congress.

"If the bill passed the house, would you then be willing to go ahead?" queried Chairman Forbes.

Manager Ballentyne stated that the company probably would be willing to have all projects surveyed, and have all materials on hand in order to begin immediate work on proposed extensions as soon as the bill was passed. He added that such proposed improvements would mean the double-tracking of King street, the Kalihi valley extension and purchase of about 15 new cars. He stated that the Wai- lae extension also has been talked over.

In the matter of paving, it appeared to be the consensus of opinion that there would be no trouble in the matter of the transit company laying the same type of pavement on their tracks as that laid on the respective streets.

"We have to do that in conformity with the law," said Attorney Withington.

"But in some instances it hasn't been done," parried Chairman Forbes.

"I think the company would do it, if the type of pavement required suited conditions," said Manager Ballentyne.

Gas Power Suggested.

The suggestion was made by Mr. Peck that the proposed new franchise should contain some provision for the use by the Rapid Transit Company of gasoline as a motive power. Mr. Peck stated that, in case the plant of the company should be destroyed, some sort of a passenger service might be maintained by the use of gasoline motors. Cars equipped with such motors, he added, might be used at night for the transportation of freight.

As soon as the first draft of the new charter is drawn it is the plan of the public utilities commission to call a meeting with the committees of the Rapid Transit, the supervisors and the public to thoroughly go over the new franchise. No definite date for this meeting has been set.

Chairman Forbes said today that, following the completion of the new charter draft, the matter of discontinuing the litigation now in the supreme court, in which the territory is plaintiff and the Rapid Transit defendant, probably will be taken up for consideration. One attorney for the Rapid Transit said that he has received no information of any purported action which the territory may take in the matter.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—M. C. PACHECO: I believe that all this Democratic election plikika on Maui could be settled by the use of a little diplomacy.

—GEORGE S. RAYMOND, school inspector: It was a fine program McKinley high school gave us last week at the flag raising exercises.

—HORACE W. VAUGHAN: I would not be surprised if Judge C. F. Clemens or myself were transferred to the mainland to "fill in" in some federal circuit during the trial of the Davis case.

—KAWAMURA, city editor, Nippon Jiji: With Koji Yamada and Waseda University in Honolulu, the Japanese will certainly flock to see the Japanese billiardist as he has proven his worth time and again.

—E. C. WESTER: They were boys from other islands than Oahu who carried off honors in the military prize drill that we held at Kamehameha schools. Zoller is from Koloa, Kauai, while Vierra is from Hilo, Hawaii.

—CAPT. WILLIAM R. FOSTER, harbor-master: Taking care of the ships in port isn't the only thing that keeps me busy. One day I had to see that a lot of rotten cabbage was hauled away from Pier 15, where it was perfuming the waterfront too strongly.

—WILLIAM LARSEN, supervisor: When I start anything I stick to it. I believe a conference between the department heads and the supervisors would result in a saving for the city. Many means of retrenchment would be discovered. I am going to keep hammering at this idea until a conference is held.

—A. RICHLEY, inspector of public

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works department: I learned the architect's trade before the days of technical schools, when you had to study building by doing the work yourself, not through books. They used to give us six months on each of the eight branches of the subject, and the work was by hand, every blessed bit of it.

—D. L. CONKLING, city treasurer: There are two bills now before Congress that will have much the same effect as the bill for a new charter proposed for the Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land Company. There is the bill making all the taxes payable by utility corporations to the territory payable to the counties in which they operate and the bill bringing all of them now under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of public works under the jurisdiction of the utilities commission.

BEACHWALK CLUB TO MEET AT SUPERVISORS' HALL AND BACK PAVING PLAN

Tomorrow night is the regular monthly meeting night of the Beachwalk Improvement Club. It is also the night at which the supervisors are to have a final hearing on the Beachwalk paving project. Hence President Lyle of the club has called an informal meeting in the hall of supervisors, that is, he is asking all the club members to gather there and show the city fathers that Beachwalk is anxious to get its new paving under way. Inasmuch as this section is paying the entire cost of the improvement no hitch is expected. Concrete is to be used.

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